Proceeding to his subject, he said that the time had arrived for enlarging the powers of the older Town Improvement Committees, *viz.*, those at Nagercoil, Trivandrum, Quilon, Alleppey and Kottayam. His first proposal was that the strength of those Committees should be increased to at least 13. The amending Regulation of 1085 did not affect the proportion of non-official members to the official members. In view of the increase in the population and the varied interests involved, it was necessary to increase the number of the non-official members. A few seats should be set apart to represent the trading classes and other interests, and those seats might be either filled by election, or by nomination by the Government. He suggested that the Committees should consist of 9 non-official members—6 members elected by the people and 3 members, who might be elected or nominated, to represent special interests—and 4 official members nominated by the Government. The President ought to be a non-official. With his multifarious and onerous duties, the Dewan Peishkar could not find as much time as he might himself wish to devote to the work of the Committee. He felt sure that proper men would be available for the presidentships in the older towns. It would be a good thing if the services of retired officers of experience could be availed of for the purpose.

In regard to the financial powers, he said that the older Committees had ceased to be minors, being 20 years old, and that they should therefore be given the power of spending their receipts and also the power of taxation. No doubt the Regulation gave them the power of taxation, but that was practically of no use when the Government refused to sanction the Committee's proposals for taxation.

He next suggested that the control of the roads within the limits of T. I. C. towns should be transferred from the P. W. D. to the Committees in the five older towns. If that were done, he was certain that the roads would be maintained in a much better condition than they were at present.

The Member then referred to Section 64 A introduced by the amendment Regulation, II of 1088, and said that it was wholly unworkable. The Committees had little or no power to prevent the exposure or sale of unwholesome food or other articles, and, what was worse, there was the risk of the President having to pay damages to the owners of such articles. The whole power was with the Magistrate. There were several other sections which required amendment. In fact, the Regulation had become very antiquated and did not meet the present day requirements of a civilised town. If a non-official President was to be appointed, the Regulation would have to be first re-enacted. It was impossible for a non-official President to administer a town with the existing defective Regulation. He therefore requested that the amendment of the Regulation might be taken up at once, and he added that the views of the several Committees should also be taken in that connection.

Dewan's reply.—Noted. Action will be taken to re-enact the Towns Conservancy and Improvement Regulation; and the Government hope to make it more effective than it now is, when they re-enact it.

93. The necessity for opening a monthly cattle market in the Krishnapuram pakuthi.

Mr. M. K. Narayana Panickan (Member, T. I. C., Kayenkulam) represented that there was no cattle market in the Krishnapuram *pakuthi* for over 12 miles on any side. The agriculturists of the place suffered much for want of a cattle market. He, therefore, requested that a cattle market under the name of the "Sri Mulam Market" be opened in the *pakuthi* and held on the 17th and 18th of every month. He suggested Survey Nos. 3828, 3829, 3830, 3832 and 3833 in the *pakuthi* as a suitable site for the market.

Dewan's reply.—The Dewan Peishkar will be asked to report about this.

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